SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, with regard to the hon. Member's second part of the question, I submit that it should be addressed to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. However, I will report it to the concerned Ministry and I will request them to give a reply. With regard to the first part of the question regarding more investment in public sector units in Rajasthan, I can assure the hon. Member that subject to other things being equal backward areas will be given preference in investment in public sector undertakings.

श्री अजीत जोगी : मान्यवर, जो नई औद्योगिक नीति है उसका जहां एक तरफ सब ने स्वागत किया है क्योंकि उसमें कई बड़े अच्छे पहलू हैं किन्तु जो पहलू सन्देह और भय उत्पन्न करते हैं जिनके विषय में पूर्व में पूरक प्रश्न पूछ गए, मैं उस पर एक स्पैसिफिक प्रश्न पूछकर उत्तर जानना चाहूंगा। जो आपने कहा कि 70 ग्रोथ सेंटर्स डेवलप किए जा रहे हैं जिनके माध्यम से आप यह सोचते हैं कि ये उद्योग पिछड़े इलाकों में भी आएंगे उन 70 ग्रोथ सेंटर्स में से कितने आदिवासी इलाकों में स्थापित किए हैं और कितने पहाड़ी इलाकों में स्थापित किए हैं और जो अपेक्षाकृत पिछड़े हुए जिले थे जिनको "नो इंडस्ट्री डिस्ट्रिक्ट" के रूप में जाने जाते हैं उनमें से कितने ग्रोथ सेंटर खोले गए हैं जिससे हम कंविंस हो सकें कि आप इन ग्रोथ सेंटर के माध्यम से पिछड़े जिलों का औद्योगीकरण कर रहे हैं अन्यथा यह साफ हो जाएगा कि ऐसी जगह आप इनको लगा रहे हैं जहां पहले से ही इंडस्ट्रीज हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know about the allocation of growth centres.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, I have already suggested that there are certain growth centres.... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know how many of them are in the tribal areas, how many are in the hilly areas and how many of them are in otherwise "No industry" areas.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, I will need a separate notice for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you supply it?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: My question relates to Rajasthan. You could tell us about Rajasthan.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, in Rajasthan we have allotted five growth centres.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where are they?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, out of these five growth centres, four have been identified. The identification is done in concurrence with the State Governments. The State Government recommends and we select. The four centres that have so far been identified are Abu Road Bhilwara, Bikaner and Jalawa. The fifth one has to be identified. We are waiting for the recommendation of the State Government However, I would like to add that selection of the growth centres is made on the recommendation of the State Government. We give guidelines to the State Government. We give guidelines to the State Governments and on their recommendation and also with their concurrence, final selection is made... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: The political element will creep in if you go by the recommendation of the State Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 204

Documentaries on Sankardeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala

*204. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposals for documentaries on Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala;

(b) if so, when these were cleared;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of the persons who have proposed them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The proposal could not be cleared due to constraints on financial resources.

(d) The proposal has been received from Shri N. M. Baruah of M/s. Do-Re-Me Films, Jorhat, Assam.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, in the case of Assam, Doordarshan's attitude has been very unsatisfactory. I have written to the Minister more than a dozen times and he has not responded so far. Whenever there is a proposal from the State of Assam, Doordarshan finds it very convenient to push it into the cold storage and let it die. Doordarshan has been giving a step-motherly treatment to Assam. It is a matter of great regret that the Government should say that it has no funds for making a documentary on the life and works of Sankaradeva, a great artist, poet and saint of medieval Assam. He did not speak of Assam alone, but he spoke of Bharatvarsh. Doordarshan has been producing documentaries on the lives and works of many saints, but when it comes to Sankaradeva, it conveniently says that there are no funds. This is very regrettable and I would like a categorical reply from the Minister as to when he is going to clear this proposal. Is he going to do it in the current financial year or is he going to defer it for an indefinite period?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Sir, at the outset I would like to say that the allegation made by the hon. Member that Doordarshan is giving a step-motherly treatment to Assam is not correct. I would like to inform the Member that since 1982-91, 22 films have been purchased from M/s. Do-Re-Me Films. Three of them are on hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question is regarding Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala.

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: I am coming to that, Sir. But, meanwhile, I would like to inform the Member that we are not being step-motherly towards Assam. We have purchased films from Hazarika and from Mr. Sharma. We have noot rejected the idea and the theme of a documentary on Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala's life and works. We are waiting for funds and as soon as funds are available we will produce the films.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Girija Vyas, are you familiar with these two literary figures. Mr. Panja should be knowing them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): Sir, Mahapurush Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala are well-known figures and nobody denies that.

Now, the problem is that this producer has come for the first 10 to 12 reel production and if we want to produce that, it will cost at least five to six lakhs of rupees more than in the in-house production. Sir, since 1988—that was submitted in 1988—till now, we could not allow any 10 to 12 ones because it costs more and the time is such that it may not be shown even for the 22 minutes as laid down under section 4 of the Cinematograph Act. That is a statutory provision and that is why they made another negotiation. But, surely, these are the ideas given by Mr. Barua himself, a very eminent producer. We have the ideas from him. But finance is not available. At the same time, we have to make distributive justice to all the producers of these films with thematic value. Sir, Mahapurush Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala are equally eminent fipures, but because of the factors I mentioned earlier, we could not just do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you not think, of in-house production?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, we have three types. This idea has been given by the producer himself. When he is giving an idea to give thematic value to be

films on these eminent personalities, we have to take it. We can do it provided he gives his consent because it is his idea that we have taken. But when we take an idea,... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This idea could have occurred to anybody's mind with regard to Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: True, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, he cannot claim monopoly over that. Therefore, something should be done.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: He cannot claim, Sir. But, ordinarily, if a producer gives an idea, we honour that idea, although there is no copyright as such. We have been having negotiations with him and for in-house production, if he comes, we can do it... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you take Dr. Saikia as a Director? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: I know Dr. Saikia so well. He can equally work as a Director. He is an MA, Ph.D in Literature... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I said so.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, it will not serve the purpose... (*Interruptions*)... It will not serve the cause. So, it is for the Minister to take steps so that during the current financial year he gets these proposals cleared, these two documentaries, on Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala.

I now come to my second supplementary. Sir, when a Member writes to the Minister on some subject, the routine reply comes saying, "I will look into the matter.". But it is regrettable that the Minister does not have the time to look into the matter at all and does not give a reply in time. I want to know from the honourable Minister categorically whether he or his Ministry would give replies in detail to the letters written by Members of Parliament especially on subjects relating to TV, Films Division, etc.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, up till now, all the letters of the honourable Members of Parliament are first acknowledged and then a final reply is given. But, if a question is asked on a matter a away from Delhi, it takes time to get those details. I will be very happy if Dr. Saikia points out one single letter which he has written to me to which I have not replied.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I have got your replies, but they are acknowledgements only, and no final reply is there.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Final reply will come after the information comes from the other end.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: During the last one year, I have not got any reply except the acknowledgement... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Acknowledgement you got. Now, Mr. Raj Mohan Gandhi.

SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI: Sir, I am very much disappointed because the hosnurable Minister has not given a categorical reply that on Mahapurush Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, even during this financial year, adequate programmes will be sanctioned. I am surprised that the Government is not aware of the hurt to the Assamese psyche when such programmes are not scheduled and how the psyche can be allayed to some extent of these programmes can be produced.

The other question that I would like to ask is whether, in addition to Sankaradeva and Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, the Government would consider having programmes on the Bhakti poets like Kabir, Tulsidas, Surdas, Mirabai and other Bhakti poets, for the morale of our country

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, we do take notice of such notable and eminent personalities. And according to the finances available to it, I cannot assure the hon. Member or this House whether

we will be able to do it within this financial year because the difficulty is that it is of 10 to 12 reels which is a very big one and costs a lot of money when we have to look after the others also. It is not true that we are not aware of the psyche of Assam because, Sir, a very well-known film has been given to Mr. Baruah himself which is regarding the 'Freedom Struggle-Contribution of Assam". It is in production under him. Three more are already there. In fact, in Assam, we have given a total of 34. I think, it is one of the highest averages so far as India is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increased equity participation by foreign companies

@*202. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow existing foreign companies to raise their equity participation in Indian companies to 51 per cent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are its likely effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the decision contained in Para 39 B of the Statement on Industrial Policy, tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24-07-1991, Government have laid down the procedure for increase in foreign equity upto 51 per cent in existing companies which already have some foreign equity holding. This facility is expected to promote technology transfer and increased marketing and financial support to existing companies. More importantly, it is expected to promote expansion and diversification of activities into high priority areas, thereby leading to increased production, promote exports and greater employment opportunities.

@Previously Starred Question 162, transferred from the 3rd December, 1991.

Scheme to ameliorate the living conditions of poor rural women

*205. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched or proposed to launch a scheme to ameliorate the living conditions of poor rural women;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the benefits likely to be derived from the scheme; and

(d) what is the machinery proposed to be evolved to monitor the working of the scheme in various States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a scheme for improvement in the living conditions of poor rural women namely 'Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas' (DWCRA) since 1982-83, as a Sub-scheme of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Groups of oment belonging to the families identified to be living below the poverty line are provided with income generating activities to supplement their family income, At present, 240 districts in the country are covered. It is expected that women belonping to the families below the poverty line would benefit from additional income, better standard of life through access to other support services and expowerment through group interaction. Government also propose to introduce Indira Mahila Yojana, detailed features of which have not yet been decided.

(d) A machinery to promote and monitor DWCRA has been set up at the State, District and field level. At the State level, a Deputy Secretary with some